REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant originally submitted Claims 1-23 in the application. In a previous response to an Office Action, the Applicant amended Claims 4, 12 and 20 to correct informalities. In the present preliminary amendment, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 9 and 17 and has canceled Claims 5, 13 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims have been added. Support for the amended claims can be found in paragraph 57 and Figure 3 (elements 340) of the present application. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-23 are currently pending in the application.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Previously, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,292 to Nguyen, *et al.* (Nguyen). The Applicant respectfully disagrees in view of amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 17.

The Examiner has asserted that Nguyen teaches moving prefetch addresses to different registers as required when return instruction move through a stage in a pipeline. (*See* Advisory Action, page 2.) Even assuming this to be true, Nguyen does not teach making ones of return PC values available to a PC of a processor upon execution of corresponding return instructions by employing staging registers to track corresponding ones of the return instructions while moving through stages in a pipeline as recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 17. On the contrary, Nguyen teaches a register block including multiple registers. (*See* column 18, lines 49-53.) To obtain a new address, a corresponding return address is selected from one of the registers. (*See* column 17, lines 21-26 and column 18, lines 58-60.) Nguyen, therefore, does not teach tracking corresponding instructions as the corresponding instructions are moving through stages of a pipeline but teaches

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selecting an address from a designated register when needed. Thus, Nguyen may teach moving addresses to different registers, but Nguyen does not teach tracking corresponding instructions as presently claimed in amended Claims 1, 9 and 17. Additionally, Nguyen does not teach staging registers that allow tracking the corresponding instructions while the corresponding instructions are moving through stages of a pipeline.

Thus, the cited reference Nguyen does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 and Claims dependent thereon. Nguyen, therefore does not anticipate Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-23. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-23 and allow issuance thereof.
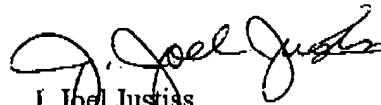
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II.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant now sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-23.

The Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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